



JAMES W. CROCKETT

7TH SHERIFF



James W. Crockett Served as Sheriff from 1842 – 44

James Walkup Crockett was born June 22, 1800 in North Carolina to Nancy Walkup and William Crockett. He was given the same name as an earlier offspring who died at age 4. The Crockett family emigrated from France, where the spelling was deCrocketagne taken from the Huguenots of Ireland. They were Ulster Scots of the Presbyterian faith. They became Huguenots or Protestants and accordingly were banished from Catholic France along with some 50,000 other families by the Edict of Nantes in 1685. They fled to Ireland and came to America in 1730.

The Crockets came to Henry County around 1825 with William and Margaret Walkup Brown (Margaret sister to Nancy Crockett). They settled in the eastern end of Henry County around Sandy Ridge. His grandfather was Captain James Walkup, of Revolutionary War fame, of the Waxhaw Settlement Mecklenburg North Carolina. The Walkup family was one of the few Colonial families entitled to bear arms. General Andrew Pickens was an Uncle of Colonial Revolutionary fame. The Crockets were related to the Browns, Carmichaels, Walkers, Hootens, Grants, Hunts and Wilkersons. James came from strong military and political stock to make Henry County a good sheriff.

James W. Crockett, Esquire was appointed Judge of the Inferior Court in January 1837. James was appointed as Sheriff in January 1842 and served until 1844.

He lived in the city during this time at the corner of Gwinnett Street (Hwy 155) and Covington Street (John Frank Boulevard). He had purchased a town lot in May 1823, at the establishing of the city in Square C. His plantation was near the Mt. Bethel and Island Shoals area.

James was married twice. First to Melissa McClendon on October 30, 1832. Melissa was born January 15, 1801 and died July 25, 1841. He married the widow Mary Bayne on September 28, 1842. She dies before 1850 and James continued to sell land of her former husband, Charles, to support the Bayne children. There were seven Crockett children.

In 1853, during the advent of the Railroad Exodus, James moved to Dekalb County along with the Lowery, Berry, Dorsey, and Thrasher families. He died July 8, 1864.

And yes, it is believed he was related to The Honorable Davey Crockett, US Congressman of Tennessee and killed in 1836 at the Battle of the Alamo near San Antonio, Texas.

If you have photographs or additional information about past Sheriffs' of Henry County that you would like to share for this display, please contact Major Jack Oakman at 770-288-7034.

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